

Amendments to the Specification:

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 46, line 18 and extending to page 47, line 9 with the following amended paragraph.

--For example, as shown in FIG. 6B, the two inputs (611, 612) on stage-1 node 0 (621) are locally labeled as input 0 and 1 (631), and the three inputs (613, 614, 615) on stage-1 node 1 (622) are locally labeled as input 0, 1 and 2 (632). Then the induced order on these five stage-1 inputs are 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 (633) as in the scope of the stage. Similarly, the induced orders on the five stage-1 outputs, the five stage-2 inputs and the four stage-2 outputs on node 0 (623) and node 1 (624) are 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 (634), 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 (635) and 0, 1, 2, 3 (636), respectively. Note that in graph representation, the labels for the local I/O orders and the induced I/O orders are usually not shown unless they need to be explicitly referred to. The external inputs of a multi-stage network are the same as stage-1 inputs, and external outputs are the same as final-stage outputs.--

2. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 46, line 18 and extending to page 47, line 9 with the following amended paragraph.

--The 8-to-4 concentrator 7000 depicted in FIG. 70A can be adapted into an 8-to-4 multicast concentrator 7100 depicted in FIG. 71A as follows. The underlying interconnection network is unchanged, but a bicast cell 7101-0,1,2,3; 7102-0,1,2,3; 7103-0,1,2,3; 7104-0,1,2,3 replaces every sorting cell in the concentrator. As before, the arrow on a bicast cell always points to output-1. In the test run of routing packets through this multicast concentrator as illustrated in FIG. 71A, the eight input packets a, b, c, d, e, f, g, and h are respectively idle, 0-bound, bicast, 0-bound, bicast, bicast, 1-bound, and 1-bound and respectively represented as 'a(I)', 'b(0)', 'c(B)', 'd(0)', 'e(B)', 'f(B)', 'g(1)', and 'h(1)'. Among the three bicast packets, only packet c(B) is bicasted, that is, it successfully converts itself into a 0-bound copy and a 1-bound copy, and this conversion occurs at the bicast cell 7102-1 when 'c(B)' meets the idle packet 'a(I)' and thereby produces 'c(0)' and 'c(1)'. The other two bicast packets 'e(B)' and 'f(B)' remain bicast packets throughout the multicast concentrator.--